Navy Plans Big Base At Puerto Rico Site

Associated Press

The Navy plans to build a major fleet training base at Roosevelt Roads on the west coast of Puerto Rico at a cost of nearly $150 million.

Rear Adm. George W. Pressey, Navy director of shore activities, told a Senate Armed Services subcommittee about the long-range plans yesterday, emphasizing that they did not imply any intention of giving up Guantanamo Bay, the major U.S. naval base in Cuba.

Expansion of the Roosevelt Roads base, he said, will "provide an additional base for advance training for all units of the Atlantic Fleet—including Marines, surface, undersurface and air—to a location where weather is ideal and water good."

He added that "there is no water and land nearer the United States for this training, which includes actual gunfire."

Pressey said the new facility "won't have any effect on Guantanamo, which is basically for elementary training of individuals. And Roosevelt Roads is training for the fleet force."

He asked for authorization of $13.8 million for the fiscal year beginning July 1 for the Roosevelt Roads program.

"The missiles are coming into the fleet. New missiles will increase from 300 firings in 1962 to 2300 in 1966," Pressey said. "That's the degree to which we are moving into the air-surface and air-missile business."

Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.), a member of the subcommittee, said, "we'd ultimately spend at least $147 million" in the expanded operation at Roosevelt Roads.

Testimony revealed that a guided missile control center and radar facility had been completed at the base.

everyone for the vacancy on the powerful House Appropriations Committee created by the death of Rep. Clarence Cannon (D-Mo.).

But Mrs. Sullivan said Friday that she didn't know if she wanted the assignment.

A 12-year veteran in Congress, she heads the House Merchant Marine subcommittee on Panama and the Banking and Currency subcommittee on consumer affairs. She would have to give up her positions on these committees if she accepted the Appropriations assignment.